

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 00919 031518Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NEAE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05
ACDA-07 IO-13 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /094 W
-----031542 003841 /53

P 031350Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3218
INFO SIT-REP COLLECTIVE PRIORITY 227
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER
USNMR SHAPE BELGIUM
CINCUSNAVEUR, LONDON ENG
CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GER
CIA WASHDC
COMSIXTHFLT
COMPHIBRON SIX
COM THREE FOUR MAU
CTF SIX ZERO
CTF SIX ONE
CTF SIX TWO
CTG SIX ZERO PT TWO
FICEURLANT NORFOLK VA
FOSIF ROTA SPAIN
DIA WASHDC
CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GER
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 0919

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MILI, PINS, PINT, LE
SUBJECT: LEBANESE SITUATION FEBRUARY 25 - MARCH 3

REF: BEIRRUT 0826 (DTG 241628Z FEB 77)

1. SUMMARY. THE GOL IS CONSIDERING WHETHER TO REQUEST UN
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BEIRUT 00919 031518Z

FORCES FOR SOUTH LEBANON. THE ARAB STATES ARE ASKED TO
RENEW THE MANDATE OF THE QUADRIPARTITE COMMITTEE AND THE ARAB
SECURITY FORCE. YASSIR ARAFAT MET WITH PRESIDENT SARKIS ON
FEB 25 AND PRIME MINISTER AL-HOSS ON FEB 27. FOREIGN MINISTER
BOUTROS SAID ON MARCH 1 THAT A DURABLE MID-EAST PEACE
REQUIRED ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL AND REALIZATION OF PALESTINIAN
ASPIRATIONS. SAUDI ARABIA HAS PROMISED LEBANON LL50 MILLION

TO HELP DISPLACED PERSONS. THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS ON FEB 24 APPROVED RULES FOR THE HOUSING BANK AND AUTHORIZED LOANS FOR HOME REPAIR. BOUTROS LEFT FOR CAIRO ON MAR 2. END SUMMARY.

2. HEAVY FIGHTING IN THE SOUTH; INCIDENT IN DAMOUR.

HEAVY FIGHTING CONTINUED IN THE SOUTH, AND LEBANESE OFFICIALS ARE CONSIDERING WAYS TO COPE WITH THE SITUATION INCLUDING THE POSSIBILITY OF ASKING THE SECURITY COUNCIL FOR UN TROOPS TO KEEP THE PEACE IN THE AREA. BOTH CHRISTIAN LEADER CAMILLE CHAMOUN AND SUNNI LEADER SAEB SALAM HAVE PUBLICLY ENDORSED THE USE OF AN INTERNATIONAL FORCE. PRO-LIBYAN AS SAFIR REPORTED ON FEB 27, HOWEVER, THAT THE GOL WOULD NOT MAKE A FORMAL REQUEST FOR UN FORCES BEFORE CONSULTING THE ARAB STATES AS WELL AS THE UNITED STATES AND SOVIET UNION. FOREIGN MINISTER BOUTROS TOLD THE PRESS THAT THE GOL WOULD RAISE "THE QUESTION OF SOUTH LEBANON" AT THE AFRO-ARAB SUMMIT CONFERENCE IN CAIRO ON MAR 7. MEANWHILE, WE HAVE RECEIVED SEVERAL REPORTS OF A CLASH BETWEEN PALESTINIAN FACTIONS IN DAMOUR ON MAR 1.

2. GOL ASKS TO ATTEND GENEVA CONFERENCE.

ON FEB 28 FOREIGN MINISTER FOUAD BOUTROS GAVE THE AMBASSADOR A NOTE VERBALE SAYING LEBANON WANTED TO BE INVITED TO A RECONVENED GENEVA CONFERENCE "WHEN THE TIME COMES...SO THAT IT CAN PARTICIPATE IN THE SPECIFIC CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BEIRUT 00919 031518Z

DEBATES WHEN IT ESTIMATES THAT IT SHOULD BE ASSOCIATED WITH THEM" (BOUTROS DELIVERED THE SAME MESSAGE TO THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR ON MAR 1.) AN NAHAR COMMENTED THAT THE GOL DID NOT WANT TO TAKE PART IN NEGOTIATIONS DEALING WITH BORDER PROBLEMS. INSTEAD, AN NAHAR SAID, THE GOL HOPED TO ATTEND THE "FINAL PHASE" OF THE CONFERENCE, WHEN THE ARAB STATES WOULD SIGN A PEACE TREATY WITH ISRAEL, AND ALL PARTIES WOULD FORMALLY RATIFY LEBANON'S PRESENT BORDERS.

4. NEW LIFE FOR QUADRIPARTITE COMMITTEE.

PRO- FEDAYEEN AL-MUHARRIR REPORTED ON MAR 1 THAT THE ARAB STATES WOULD RENEW THE MANDATE OF THE QUADRIPARTITE COMMITTEE, WHICH SUPPOSEDLY HELD ITS FINAL MEETING LAST MONTH. THE PAPER QUOTED "INFORMED SOURCES" AS SAYING THE COMMITTEE WOULD NOT ONLY CONTINUE TO OVERSEE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CAIRO ACCORDS, BUT WOULD ALSO UNDERTAKE NEW ASSIGNMENTS REQUIRED BY PRESENT

DEVELOPMENTS, PARTICULARLY THE SITUATION IN THE SOUTH. THE GOL HAS ALSO REQUESTED A SIX-MONTH EXTENSION OF THE ASF, WHOSE PRESENT MANDATE EXPIRES IN APRIL 1977.

5. ARAFAT SEES HOSS AND SARKIS.

PLO LEADER YEASSIR ARAFAT MET WITH PRESIDENT SARKIS ON FEB 25 AND PRIME MINISTER AL-HOSS ON FEB 27. THE PALESTINIAN NEWS AGENCY Wafa SAID THAT THE MEETING WITH SARKIS WAS "POSITIVE AND FRUITFUL." AN NAHAR REPORTED THAT SARKIS STRESSED THE NEED FOR STRICT IMPLEMENT OF THE CAIRO ACCORDS, WHILE ARAFAT EXPRESSED THE PLO'S WILLINGNESS TO CARRY OUT ITS COMMITMENTS UNDER THE SAME AGREEMENTS. Wafa SAID THAT AL-HOSS AND ARAFAT DISCUSSED THE "LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN SOUTH LEBANON."

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 BEIRUT 00919 031518Z

6. BOUTROS TESTIFIES.

ON MAR 1 FOREIGN MINISTER BOUTROS TESTIFIED BEFORE THE PARLIAMENTARY COMMISSIONS FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND DEFENSE. HE SAID A DURABLE MID-EAST PEACE DEPENDED ON : "TOTAL ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM OCCUPIED ARAB TERRITORIES; AND REALIZATION OF THE NATIONAL ASPIRATIONS OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE REGARDING THEIR TERRITORIAL RIGHTS IN THE WAY WHICH THEY THEMSELVES HAVE CHOSEN."

7. SAUDI ARABIA GIVES AID.

THE SAUDI ARABIAN AMBASSADOR, ALI AL-SHAER, TOLD REPORTERS ON FEB 24 THAT HIS GOVERNMENT HAD DELIVERED A LL5 MILLION CHECK TO PRIME MINISTER AL-HOSS FOR MUSLIM CHARITABLE INSTITUTIONS AND WOULD SOON GIVE LEBANON LL50 MILLION FOR AID TO DISPLACED PERSONS. THE AMBASSADOR ALSO SAID SAUDI ARABIA AND KUWAIT WERE PUTTING TOGETHER "AN OVERALL AND COMMON PROGRAM OF ASSISTANCE WHICH WOULD BE CARRIED OUT SHORTLY."

8. RULES FOR HOUSING BANK APPROVED.

THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS RESOLVED ON FEB 24 THAT THE NEWLY FORMED HOUSING BANK WOULD HAVE A CAPITAL OF LL50 MILLION AND THE RIGHT TO ENGAGE IN "ALL TYPES OF BANKING OPERATIONS IN LEBANON AND ABROAD." HOWEVER, THE BANK WOULD HAVE THE AUTHORITY TO MAKE LOANS ONLY IN LEBANON AND ONLY FOR TWO PURPOSES: 1) TO REPAIR OR RECONSTRUCT DAMAGED OR DESTROYED HOUSING; AND 2) TO

MANAGE PUBLIC OR PRIVATE FUNDS DESIGNATED FOR FINANCING HOUSING PROJECTS.

9. DECREE-LAW ON HOUSING LOANS.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 05 BEIRUT 00919 031518Z

THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS ON FEB 24 ALSO ISSUED A DECREE-LAW AUTHORIZING THE OWNERS OF "RENTAL HOUSING UNITS DAMAGED OR DESTROYED DURING THE CRISIS" TO APPLY TO THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND COOPERATIVES FOR LOANS WHICH WOULD HAVE : A) A MAXIMUM VALUE OF LL30,000 PER HOUSING UNIT AND LL60,000 FOR COMMON PROPERTY; B) AN ANNUAL INTEREST RATE OF TWO PERCENT; C) A MAXIMUM TERM OF 15 YEARS. IF A LOAN WERE MADE FOR REPAIRS, THE FIRST PAYMENT WOULD BE DUE 19 MONTHS AFTER SIGNATURE; IF FOR RECONSTRUCTION, 37 MONTHS AFTER SIGNATURE.

10. COMINGS AND GOINGS.

SAEB SALAM LEFT FOR A SHORT VISIT TO SAUDI ARABIA ON FEB 27. GHASSAN TUENI LEFT PARIS FOR WASHINGTON ON MAR 2 FOR A TWO-MONTH STINT AS ARAB LEAGUE SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE. FOREIGN MINISTER BOUTROS LEFT FOR CAIRO ON MAR 2 TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PREPARATORY MEETINGS OF THE AFRO-ARAB SUMMIT CONFERENCE. PRESIDENT SARKIS IS NOW SCHEDULED TO LEAVE FOR THE EGYPTIAN CAPITAL ON MAR 5 OR 6.
PARKER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 03-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977BEIRUT00919
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770073-0755
Format: TEL
From: BEIRUT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770398/aaaadiqo.tel
Line Count: 204
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 74b5d7be-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 BEIRUT 826
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30-Sep-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3223908
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LEBANESE SITUATION FEBRUARY 25 - MARCH 3
TAGS: MILI, PINS, PINT, LE
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/74b5d7be-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009